TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 20, 2001 LB 827

there's enough market pressure out there that at some point in time they'll want to get in. All of those entities refused saying, oh, we don't want to do that. Well, the reason is very simple why they don't want to do it, is that they want to use the ratepayer money and subsidize these adventures. Senator Bromm's bill, from my point of perception is that there is not an incentive for them to lease under this mechanism because they can't make any money. It takes the profit, if they make any profit, and puts it somewhere else. So, I mean, I don't know that... I did not... and if I did do that I did not mean to mean the bill is a bad bill. I'm going to vote for the bill. I'm going to support the bill because it accomplishes the right things from my point of view. What I think does happen here is a philosophic debate over who should be in the business and are you going to let government get in and compete and, if they're going to do that, who pays for that. And I'm to the point where I think it is a much better approach, given that they won't do the bill I introduced, and I think it s probably been killed, but then we should say, okay, if there is leasing allowed you're not going to make any money from it. Do what you do best and that's produce power, distribute power, and don't get into these other entities that you're not equipped to do. And the discussion over where to spend the money is really one I'm not...that's not my fight. My fight and concern is to where you spend the money, if there is any, or whether you use General Fund monies, or whether they come from other fees or sources. I think Senator Wickersham is more into that debate, Senator Bromm But I think Senator Bromm has been very certainly is. straightforward with the committee in crafting a bill that accomplishes several different things here, and that's the reason I'd support the bill. It's the reason I signed on as a cosponsor, that they were kind enough to let me do. But I...my philosophic approach is I don't think you ought to let them in that business. It isn't their expertise. It isn't their core business. How much further do you let them go? Do they want to get into the cable TV business? Do they want to get into the business of providing travel services? Do you want to get them into a whole variety of other areas? They're full service. And at some point in time I think we have to decide as a state who gets in and who doesn't get in, and if we allow competitors to come in who have an inherent advantage, and that is they don't